

their minds. How great the contrast in this respect! And here, of all people in the world, the pleasures of the Southern slaves seem, as they really are, most unusual!"

If Mr. Hooker's Paradise Regained should fail to be appreciated in this generation, he can console himself with the reflection that Milton was equally unlucky with his Paradise Lost, in his day and generation.

**A QUESTION FOR LAWYERS.**—A correspondent wishes to know, whether members of Congress, absenting themselves during the session, from Washington, can be reclaimed and brought back to the place where their services are due, under the Fugitive Act of 1850?

**HILDBRETH'S WHITE SLAVE.**—We understand that 100 copies of Hildbreth's White Slave have been sold in England, and that the work has also been translated into French.

**THE FAIR OF THE METROPOLITAN MECHANICAL INSTITUTE** was opened to the public yesterday, at the appointed hour of 12 o'clock, meridian. Great satisfaction was felt and expressed by the visitors, at the number and excellence of the exhibits, and the beauty of the exhibition, and the character of the exhibition itself, taken as a whole. We presume that during its continuance the hall will be one of the most popular places of resort, both for strangers and residents, in our metropolis.

In the evening, the proceedings of the grand programme were carried out according to programme. The Hon. Joseph R. Chandler delivered the address—a very able one—occupying about an hour.

Up to the time of closing the exhibition, it was crowded with happy and gratified visitors. We learn it is acknowledged, by gentlemen, from other cities, that in most essential respects this exhibition has yet had no superior in our country.—*Nat. Intelligencer of Friday*

#### THE CALORIC SHIP.

The ship *Erebus*, Captain Lowber, came up the Potomac on Monday night, and anchored at the stream of Alexandria, where we understand she will remain during her stay in our waters. Her visit will probably be extended to ten or twelve days, to afford the members of the Government of Congress, and others, full opportunity to examine her peculiarities. The ship, the inventor of her motor, is on board. This ship and her novel motive power have been so often and so fully referred to in our paper, that any description here would be unnecessary repetition. Her size is about 2,000 tons, her engines are estimated at 600 horse-power, and her model is said to be beautiful. She made no attempt to try her speed on her way hither, that forming no part of the object of her voyage.—*Nat. Int.*

#### THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND.

To the Editor of the National Era:

Sir: I perceive that the New York journals are admitting into their columns attacks on the Duchess of Sutherland—the object of which is evidently to excite the passions of the women of this country on the subject of slavery, in the preparation of which that distinguished lady has taken so prominent a part. The *Tribune* of the 9th, Mr. G. has a letter from its London correspondent, calculated to mislead the public mind on this subject, and to arouse prejudices where none ought to exist. The *Herald* follows in the wake of the *Tribune*, and does not hesitate, in its numerous articles, to make the Duchess of Sutherland, who appears in *Graham's Magazine* for March, containing charges of the most odious kind against the Duchess of Sutherland, conveyed in language the most offensive. I have endeavored to correct the error, for I will endeavor to do so, if it is not too late. The *Herald* have fallen, by addressing letters to the editors of these papers; but hitherto they have not inserted them, though authenticated by my signature, and in this respect appear to me to show as great a want of gallantry as of justice.

With your permission, I should like to make a few corrective remarks on the article in *Graham's Magazine*, for the information of your readers as they may not be aware of the facts of the case.

In the February number of *Graham* there is a review of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which violates every principle of good taste, as well as every canon of sound criticism. For this it appears he has been taken to task by some of his contemporaries, and in his March number attempts to crush all opposition in an article headed *The British Slave System*, in which I have no doubt will be extensively quoted, and furnish ample materials for all the pro-slavery parties in the South, to feed upon for the next three months.

Now, sir, it is not my intention to take up your space, or the time of your readers, by a defence of the English and their doings, whether at home or abroad. I have no wish to palliate or excuse the wrongs of the colored people, or to degrade Ireland, but I am anxious to set the record straight, and to show that the charges brought against her in *Graham's Magazine*, and in doing so, I shall answer the articles which have appeared in the *Tribune* and *Herald*.

The charges brought against the Duchess of Sutherland are set forth in the following words in *Graham*: "The great proprietors of America have been doing all in their power to exterminate the colored race, and to degrade Ireland, but I have no doubt will be extensively quoted, and furnish ample materials for all the pro-slavery parties in the South, to feed upon for the next three months."

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attaches to the old Countess of Sutherland, better known as the Marchioness of Stafford; but even in her case, I venture to say, the clearing of her estates was not attended with the acts of barbarous inhumanity complained of, deplorable as in many respects they undoubtedly were. The Duchess of Sutherland is not less distinguished by her high position in society than by the excellence of her character, and by the unaffected simplicity and grace of her manners. She is an ornament to her sex in all the relations she sustains; and no woman in England could with more propriety be selected to head her countrywomen in an appeal to the generous and Christian feelings of America, in behalf of the suffering and oppressed, than herself; and I feel persuaded that no American who has had the opportunity of an introduction to her, will judge otherwise.

You, sir, are probably aware that the Duchess of Sutherland is the sister of the Lord Morpeth (now Earl of Carlisle) who visited the United States a few years since, and who is known to be a warm admirer of your institutions, slavery excepted. The Duke, her husband, previous to his retirement from public life, was the consequence of ill health, was among the most liberal of our nobility, and the friend of all popular measures; and I may add, the family connections of the Duke—the Carles, the Argylls, the Westons, &c.—are those to whom the people of England look with the greatest confidence, to aid them in achieving the largest measures of political freedom.

I am, sir, yours, respectfully,

JOHN SCOBLE.

Brooklyn, February 22, 1853.

#### CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

THIRTY-SECOND CONGRESS—SECOND SESSION.

##### SENATE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

Mr. Walker moved to take up the Homestead bill.

Messrs. Walker, Gwin, Borland, and Rusk supported the motion.

Mr. Bell said he was sorry the Senator from Texas should be in favor of giving any bill a precedence over the Pacific Railroad bill.

An amended debate sprang up as to whether the Pacific Railroad bill was dead, and if so, who killed it.

The question was taken, and the motion was rejected, and the Homestead bill was not taken up.

Mr. Walker moved to take up the bill, and the bill was then taken up.

Mr. Walker moved to reconsider the vote by which Mr. Shields's amendment was adopted on Saturday.

Mr. Geyer opposed the reconsideration.

Messrs. Butler and Mason opposed the bill, and the bill was not taken up.

The debate continued till after four o'clock, when Mr. Shields's amendment was reconsidered and rejected—yeas 24, nays 28.

Mr. Walker moved an amendment confining the money appropriated to the road in the Territories; and it was agreed to—yeas 27, nays 26.

Mr. Brooks moved a substitute for the whole bill, and the Senate then adjourned.

##### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

Mr. Hunter moved to take up the Army Appropriation bill, when a long, uninteresting discussion took place regarding the priority of business.

Mr. Hamlin moved to take up the bill for the relief of indigent insane, which was lost by fifteen to twenty-six.

The joint resolution postponing the operation of the steamboat law of last session until the 1st of June, was warmly debated, and passed.

Mr. Chase introduced a joint resolution authorizing the President to purchase Powers's statue of America, which was debated and amended.

The Pacific Railroad bill was then taken up again.

Mr. Seward moved to amend by authorizing a contract for fifty years to carry the mails over the road within the States for \$600 per mile. Some time was spent in debate thereon, when

Mr. Hunter moved to lay the bill on the table. This was lost—yeas 24, nays 26—after a long debate.

There was a strong disposition manifested to get rid of the bill, and in the next time speakers had begun to indulge in eulogies on the bill as a defunct affair.

Finally, on motion of Mr. Badger, with the view of paying respect, as he said, to the deceased bill, the Senate adjourned.

##### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

Mr. Hunter, from the committee appointed to wait on the President elect, and inform him of his election, made a report that they had performed the duty.

On motion of Mr. Bright, the Chair was authorized to appoint a committee to make arrangements for the reception and inauguration of the President, on the 4th of March.

The Army Appropriation bill was taken up. Several amendments were introduced, and the amount called for by the estimates.

Mr. Shields moved to strike out the following words in the bill:

"From and after the first day of July next, that of the act of Congress approved August 23, 1842, as places the national armories under the superintendence of an officer of the Ordnance Corps, he and the same are hereby repealed; and from that day the said armories shall be under that system of superintendence which existed prior to the passage of said act of Congress."

Mr. Hale opposed the amendments, and Mr. Shields replied.

Mr. Shields moved to amend the provision modifying the act of 1842, so as to allow the President to appoint a military or civil superintendent of the armories.

Mr. Pearce was for adhering to the present system.

Messrs. Shields, Butler, Bell, and Phelps supported the motion to strike out; Messrs. Mason, Sumner, and Hale, opposed it—the latter supporting Mr. Davis's amendment.

The question was taken, and Mr. Davis's amendment was rejected.

Mr. Hunter moved an appropriation to fortify the harbor of San Francisco \$500,000; for defenses in Florida, \$175,000; Georgia, \$200,000; harbor of Charleston, \$110,000; Baltimore harbor, (Sellers' Point), \$50,000; Fort Delaware, \$150,000; Massachusetts, \$73,000; and \$445,000 for the State of Maine.

An amendment was debated for some time, the question being whether the Senate should adopt a system of fortifications upon the Army bill, and was then dropped—yeas 30, nays 14.

Mr. Gwin moved to add an appropriation of \$200,000, for the construction of a survey of the most practicable route for a railroad to the Pacific. Ruled out of order.

Mr. Mallory moved an amendment authorizing the President to employ, if necessary, the volunteer troops and militia raised in Florida by the Legislature of that State, to enforce the removal of the Indians from that State; which was debated till half-past 4, and then rejected—yeas 19, nays 24.

Without disposing of the Army Appropriation bill, the Senate adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

Mr. Underwood said that when the Army bill was disposed of, he would move to take up Bennett's land bill.

The Army Appropriation bill was taken up.

Mr. Chase, having obtained the consent of the Committee on Roads and Canals, moved to amend the bill, by adding thereto additional sections, providing for a survey and exploration of the most practicable route for a railroad to the Pacific, and for the construction of the same, and for the payment of the expenses of the survey; the reports to be laid before Congress at the next session, along with such estimates and proposals as may be received for the construction of said road.

This renewed the subject of a railroad to the Pacific, and it was debated for some time.

Messrs. Mason, Hunter, and Butler, denounced that species of legislation which sought to make the appropriation bills the vehicle of all matters which a majority could not otherwise carry.

Mr. Hunter moved to amend the amendment, by providing for the construction of a railroad to the Pacific, by granting alternate sections of land to actual settlers, and appropriating the others to the construction of the same, and granting in addition a sum of money.

The Chair ruled the amendment of Mr. Walker to be out of order.

Mr. Walker appealed from the decision of the Chair.

The appeal was debated at great length, and the decision of the Chair was sustained—yeas 40, nays 10.

Mr. Walker modified his amendment, so as to confine it to a grant of land to actual settlers for the alternate sections along the line of said road, six miles on each side, and the others for the railroad; and the money appropriated to be used in the necessary survey.

The Chair decided this to be in order.

Mr. Chase appealed; and after a long debate, the decision was sustained—yeas 25, nays 10.

Mr. Adams then addressed the Senate in opposition to the Homestead bill, and in favor of graduating the price of the public lands.

Mr. Charlton followed, in opposition to the Homestead bill.

Mr. Dodge of Iowa, and Mr. Hale, defended the bill.

Mr. Butler replied.

Before coming to a vote, the subject was postponed, and the Senate proceeded to consider Executive business.

At a late hour the doors were opened, and the Senate adjourned.

##### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

The Army Appropriation bill was taken up.

Mr. Walker's amendment directing a survey and location of a railroad to the Pacific, and granting alternate sections of the public land to actual settlers free of charge, and the residue of the land to be sold, and the proceeds of such land to be devoted to the construction of said road, was the pending question. This was further debated, and then rejected—yeas 17, nays 36.

Mr. Chase's amendment, for a survey and exploration of the most practicable route for that railroad, was, after further debate, agreed to—yeas 31, nays 16.

An amendment appropriating \$100,000 to the discovery of the anesthetic agent used in surgical cases in the army and navy, and the person to whom the same is to be paid to be ascertained by judicial inquiry, was debated and passed.

Mr. Douglas moved an amendment authorizing the President to contract for the construction and defense of a wagon road from the valley of the Mississippi to Oregon and California, grading, and building the same, as whether the road was to be built, or whether it was to be graded—yeas 25, nays 23.

The bill was reported, and all the amendments made in Committee except three: 1st, striking out the provision that armories shall be under civil superintendence; 2d, the one authorizing the President to purchase Powers's statue of America; 3d, the one relating to the Pacific; and 3d, one relating to the Blue Lick Springs. Separate votes were taken on these—the first was disagreed to; the second was agreed to; the third was agreed to, after striking out "Blue Licks" and inserting "ate."

##### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

Mr. Hunter, from the Committee on Finance, reported back the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill, with numerous amendments. He said he would like to take it up as soon as the Army bill was disposed of.

Mr. Hunter moved to take up the Army Appropriation bill.

The motion was agreed to.

The question pending was on the amendment proposed by Mr. Davis, and modified at the suggestion of Mr. Shields, to strike out the provision placing the national armories under the charge of civil superintendents, and to insert, in lieu thereof, a provision modifying the act of 1842 so as to authorize the President, when in his opinion it is desirable, to appoint a superintendent who was not of the army; and also to direct that a mixed commission of civilians and officers be appointed to examine and report which system of superintendence, civil or military, is best calculated to promote the public interests.

The question being taken, the motion was agreed to—yeas 29, nays 24.

The bill was then read a third time, and passed.

Mr. Hunter moved that the Senate proceed to consider the Civil and Diplomatic Appropriation bill.

The motion was agreed to.

In order that time might be saved, no amendments were offered in Committee of the Whole, and the bill was reported to the Senate.

Mr. Hunter, from the Committee on Finance, submitted a large number of amendments, which occupied the time of the Senate till after 4 o'clock.

Amongst the amendments disposed of were the following:

To strike out the provision of the bill which prevents any part of the Patent Office building being used by the Secretary of the Interior for any purposes other than those of the Patent Office.

Messrs. Walker, Davis, and James, opposed to striking out the provision.

Messrs. Cass, Borland, and Hunter, replied. It was then struck out—yeas 24, nays 22.

To strike out the appropriations for the construction of the custom-house at St. Louis, \$115,000; at Louisville, \$87,745; and at Cincinnati, \$87,745.

After debate, the Senate refused to strike out.

The appropriation for the Minister to China was raised to \$180,000, including outfit.

Twenty thousand dollars was added, to defray the expenses of the officers, &c., of the steam frigate sent to the World's Fair at New York, during their stay in this country.

The bill was then postponed.

##### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

The House was occupied, during the entire day, in disposing of the amendments which had been reported to the Civil and Diplomatic bill; upon several of which the yeas and nays were taken, and decided in the affirmative.

There was an appropriation of \$20,000 for the support of the transient poor in the District of Columbia; those for the custom-houses at St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and New Orleans; and a Minister to Central America.

The amendment voting \$30,000 for heating, furnishing, and repairing the Presidential mansion, was negatively—yeas 63, nays 105; as was also the section of the bill appropriating \$200,000 for the purchase of Winde's building for public offices. In favor of striking out the section—yeas 99, nays 10.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

A motion to suspend the rules for the purpose of taking up the bill for the better regulation of the navy, was negatively—yeas 98, nays 10.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, and took up the Indian bill, after which it adjourned.

##### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

The resolution requiring the binding of certain maps was passed.

The House next resumed the bill establishing reciprocal trade with the British North American Colonies on certain conditions.

Mr. Fuller, of Maine, opposed the bill.

Mr. Tucker, of New Hampshire, concluded his remarks on the Reciprocity bill. He contended that the duty levied on flour imported into the country was paid by the people of the country, and he was opposed to the surrender of the coasting trade, as proposed by Mr. Clingman, which he felt satisfied would not be reciprocated by Great Britain, with reference to the British Isles, and thought the bill should not be passed.

He contended that the bill would be hampered by any such proposition, he saw the reason why the interests of the lumbering districts of Maine should be allowed to prejudice the bill, and which would be benefited by the admission of lumber into the British West India Islands.

He said he had been induced to move for the introduction of coal and iron into the bill, and cautioned the members from Pennsylvania, not to prevent the passage of the bill as reported, as another Congress would undoubtedly agree to a bill which included those articles.

After debate, the Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, from the committee appointed to wait on Gen. Pierce, and acquaint him with the result of the Presidential election, reported that the committee had performed that duty, and that the President elect signified his acceptance of the office, &c.

Mr. Tucker, of New Hampshire, concluded his remarks on the Reciprocity bill. He contended that the duty levied on flour imported into the country was paid by the people of the country, and he was opposed to the surrender of the coasting trade, as proposed by Mr. Clingman, which he felt satisfied would not be reciprocated by Great Britain, with reference to the British Isles, and thought the bill should not be passed.

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